

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. MICHAEL H.  
MOSKOW

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Dr. Michael H. Moskow. On August 31, Dr. Moskow will retire from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago after 13 years of dedicated service.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Dr. Moskow received his B.A. in economics from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1959 and a doctorate in business and applied economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1965.

Throughout his career, Dr. Moskow has succeeded in a wide realm of venues. His experiences range from serving on the faculty of Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg School of Management to 14 years in senior management positions for three Chicago companies and appointment for public duty by the Senate on five different occasions.

During his tenure as a public servant, Mr. Moskow would assume a series of important and influential roles. He served as a U.S. Trade Representative to Southeast Asia, Under Secretary of Labor at the U.S. Department of Labor, senior staff economist at the Council of Economic Advisors, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Director of the Council on Wage and Price Stability, and finally, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Dr. Moskow also serves on a number of civic, professional, and educational organizations. Currently, Dr. Moskow is chairman of the National Bureau of Economic Research, as well as the director of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, the Northwestern Memorial Foundation, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and World Business Chicago. The list of organizations he has guided and served goes on and on.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael Moskow on his lengthy and influential career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to Chicago and the country as a whole. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WILFRED G.  
GOODEN—REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER,  
PHILANTHROPIST, CIVIC  
AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Wilfred G. Gooden, civic and political activist who left this world at the age of 84 years and to enter into the RECORD an article in the New York Carib News entitled "Wilfred G. Gooden, 84, a Real Estate Developer, Philanthropist, Civic and Political Activist."

Wilfred G. Gooden was born in Jamaica and spent 60 years residing in New York City. His life is one of those rags to riches stories, including a social, charitable, and political side. Mr. Gooden began in 1977 rehabilitating city-owned abandoned apartment houses, under the Federal Government's section 8 housing subsidy program, along the area of 145th Street from Broadway east to Amsterdam, then south along Amsterdam toward 144th Street.

Gooden never forgot his Jamaican roots. He founded the American Friends of Jamaica in 1982 and remained as a director on its board until his death and founded the Concerned Committee For Christian Education, CCCE, which supported two schools, one in New York and the other in Jamaica. He has received several accolades including the Order of Distinction, O.D., for his contribution to Jamaican charities from the Government of Jamaica and an honorary degree of human letters from the Faith Grant College of Alabama.

Even though Wilfred G. Gooden passed away on January 6, 2007, his contributions to Harlem, my congressional district, are ever present in the buildings he rehabilitated in the area. Please join me in extending heartfelt sympathies to his beloved wife, Sybil, and brother, Vibert.

WILFRED G. GOODEN, 84, A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER, PHILANTHROPIST, CIVIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST

Dr. Wilfred G. Gooden, O.D., of Riverdale, New York, a Jamaican American who arrived in New York almost penniless from Jamaica in 1945, worked hard, saved his money and become one of Harlem's most successful real estate developers. He died in Kingston, Jamaica W.I., at Andrews Memorial Hospital on January 6th, 2007 just weeks away from his 85th birthday.

Mr. Gooden's life embodied not only a rags to riches story, but he entered the social, business, charity and political life of the city, and never forgot his Jamaican roots.

He was a founder of The American Friends of Jamaica in 1982 and remained as a director on its board until his death. The Government of Jamaica honored him with the "Order of Distinction (O.D.) for his contribution to Jamaican charities and the Faith\*Grant College of Alabama presented Mr. Gooden with an Honorary Degree of Human Letters, He

also founded The Concerned Committee For Christian Education (CCCE) which supported two schools, one in New York and the other in Jamaica.

It was not unusual to walk into his home and find Congressman Charles R. Rangel and former Mayor David Dinkins in good active conversation. In Jamaica he counted at least three former Prime Ministers as good friends, The Most Hon. Michael Manley, Edward Seaga and P.J. Patterson.

His Christmas season trips were legendary on behalf of The Concerned Committee For Christian Education (Seventh Day Adventists) when he distributed clothing, books, toys and blankets to the children of families in need.

Mr. Gooden is survived by his beloved wife Sybil and a brother, Vibert who is 93 years young of Atlanta, Georgia.

In Lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Concerned Committee For Christian Education (CCCE) Box 683, New York, NY 10039.

Viewing will take place on Sunday 21, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by the memorial service at 5:00 p.m. at The Ephesus Seventh Day Adventists Church at West 123rd Street and Lenox Avenue (Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.) The burial will be Monday at 10:00 a.m.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE  
TERRY R. SPENCE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and career of the Honorable Terry R. Spence. Mr. Spence is the longest serving Speaker of the House of Representatives in the history of the State of Delaware. Speaker Spence also has held the position longer than any speaker in any state legislature in the United States of America.

Mr. Spence was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware. He received an associate's degree in business from Goldey-Beacom College and he later received his bachelor's degree from Wilmington College. Speaker Spence is truly a born and bred Delawarean and he has served our state honorably for over 26 years.

First elected in 1980, Terry quickly rose through the ranks to become the Majority Whip of the General Assembly. He served in this position for 3 years and was consistently reelected as a Republican, even though he served in a Democratic district.

As a State Representative for the 18th District, Terry has worked tirelessly to defend the middle class. As a member of Labor and Veteran Affairs committees, Representative Spence has fought to protect the constituents of the 18th.

Having worked with Terry during my years as lieutenant governor, governor, and now U.S. Representative, I can attest to his strong leadership and his dedication to not only his constituents, but to all Delawareans. Serving as Speaker of the House is a formidable task,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and Terry has managed to successfully carry out his duties over an extraordinary period of time.

Speaker Spence continues to serve as a dignified leader in the General Assembly and I wish him luck as he begins his work with the 144th session of Delaware's legislative body. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to record Rollcall votes nos. 56 and 57 due to prior commitments in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall votes nos. 56 and 57.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 22, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 51, a resolution that honors the contributions of Catholic schools and supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week.

The many accomplishments of Catholic schools and their positive impact on students and communities throughout the nation are evident in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, where schools such as St. Pascal Elementary, St. Bartholomew Elementary, and Gordon Technical High School provide a quality education while instilling values that will serve their students throughout their lives. These schools provide strong academic curricula and promote significant parental involvement. They teach students the importance of academic achievement while also providing a balanced perspective on life that promotes responsibility, justice and social service.

Catholic schools also promote ethnic and racial diversity. An increasing number of children in Catholic schools in my district come from our minority communities. Students in Catholic schools achieve exceptionally high graduation rates, and an increasing number are advancing to college and giving back to the community through volunteer service.

Catholic schools foster more than scholastic excellence alone. They provide spiritual guidance to students by encouraging fundamental ideals and an appreciation for family values, community service, and faith in their own lives. This, in turn, shapes Catholic school students into leaders of tomorrow.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the 2007 "Heart of the School" award winners. Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools presents these awards to recognize outstanding and innovative accomplishments of individual teachers at Archdiocese of Chicago schools.

Two 2007 "Heart of the School" award winners teach at schools in the Fifth Congress-

sional District, Kristin McCreary of St. Josaphat School and Lauren Costa at St. Pascal School. I thank these outstanding educators, past winners, and all of the dedicated Catholic school teachers in my district for their devotion to their students and for setting the standard for teaching excellence.

Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 51 and encourage Catholic schools in my district and across the United States to continue contributing to the development of strong moral, intellectual and social values in America's young people. I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for their sponsorship of Catholic Schools Week.

#### HONORING MS. YVETTE CLARKE—NEWLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor YVETTE CLARKE, newly-elected Representative of the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York and to enter into the RECORD an article in the New York Carib News by Tony Best entitled "Brooklyn Celebrates Yvette Clarke's Assumption of Duties as Representative for 11th Congressional District, Hundreds Attend Community Event at Brooklyn College."

YVETTE CLARKE was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is the daughter of Leslie Clarke, father, and former Brooklyn councilwoman Una Clarke. The Clarks migrated to the United States before Congresswoman CLARKE was born. CLARKE attended New York City public schools and received a scholarship to Oberlin College in Ohio.

YVETTE CLARKE was elected to the New York City council in November 2001 as the representative for the 40th District in Brooklyn. CLARKE was overwhelmingly re-elected to office in November 2003 and November 2005. She succeeded her pioneering mother, the former city councilmember, Dr. Una Clarke, making them the first mother-daughter succession in the history of the council.

In November 2006, CLARKE was elected to represent the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York. CLARKE, a life-long Flatbush resident, will continue to ably represent her mostly working-class constituents in her district the same way she did while sitting on the council, particularly as Congress takes up immigration reform and long-deferred issues of economic fairness.

YVETTE CLARKE has the reputation of being a good listener and a true leader. She distinguished herself as a strong negotiator and has a record of getting things done to meet the needs of the residents of her district. I look forward to working closely with YVETTE on the issues facing the American people and I ask you to join me in welcoming Congresswoman CLARKE into the 110th Congress of the United States of America.

[From the New York CaribNews]

BROOKLYN CELEBRATES YVETTE CLARKE'S ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; HUNDREDS ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENT AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

(By Tony Best)

After one of New York City's big political flash points: a brutal election campaign to fill a Congressional seat once held by the iconic figure Shirley Chisholm, it was time for a community celebration.

And the emotional atmosphere that enlivened the ceremonial swearing in of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke was punctuated with music, dance, prayers, poetry, glowing tributes by prominent elected officials, tears of joy and the obvious satisfaction of the Clarke family that one of their own had made it to the halls of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"She got there the old fashioned way, she earned it," asserted U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, a Democrat of New York and one of his party's major architects of the successful mid-term election which resulted in the ousting of the Republicans from control of Capitol Hill.

"We are proud of Yvette," he told a cheering crowd. "She worked hard to get elected. She didn't rest on her laurels. It's a great day for Brooklyn, a great day for the Clarke family, and a great day for the United States."

Actually, the ceremonial taking of the oath of office followed the official swearing-in which had taken place in Washington a week earlier, and when Brooklyn Civil Court Judge Sylvia Ash asked the freshman member of the House to pledge to carry out her duties in accordance with the country's constitution, members of the audience joined in responding in the affirmative as if they too were going to the nation's capital.

Clarke won the 11th Congressional District election last September when she defeated three other candidates in the Democratic Primary. Among the competitors was the well-financed Jewish City Council member David Yassky who had moved into the District just before launching his campaign with the clear and opportunistic goal of capturing the white votes while leaving the Blacks to split their support from the Hispanic, Asian and Black majority. Yassky had raised almost \$2 million for his campaign war chest, more than the combined funds raised by the other three candidates. But it didn't work.

The seat had become vacant when Major Owens who had occupied it for at least two decades after succeeding Chisholm in the 1980's decided to retire. He had hoped that his son, Chris Owens, a community activist would succeed him. But like Yassky's plans, that goal failed.

Clarke went on to win the November election with about 90 percent of the vote.

"She worked hard," said U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner, who shocked the political establishment when he endorsed Clarke in the Primary campaign and campaigned with her, instead of backing Yassky. "She shares the values of the community and understands its needs," he told the audience.

The Congressman was on a list of speakers, mainly members of the state legislature in Albany and the City Council in Manhattan, who joined Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President and others in extolling the qualities which catapulted Clarke from City Hall to Congress, a feat which eluded her mother, Una Clarke, several years ago when she sought to replace Major Owens in a hard fought race.

New York State Assemblyman Nick Perry alluded to that election battle when he told

the crowd that while he had political differences with the Congresswoman's mother it didn't stop him from vigorously backing "Yvette" and helping to raise money for her. "I feel like I won too," said Perry who dropped out of the Congressional race early last year and then threw his support behind Clarke. "She will do great things for America. She is young and bright."

State Senator John Sampson was another of the elected office holders, who at the urging of both "Yvette" and her mother, not only backed her drive for the House but contributed campaign funds and material support. He became philosophical when he invoked the presence and role of the Almighty God in people's lives and reminded the Congressperson that prosperity and success breed many friends but "adversity proves them."

State Senator Kevin Parker, who had declined to back Clarke during the Primary, supporting Karl Andrews, at the time a State Senator from Brooklyn instead, said that he too was confident "Yvette" would succeed in Washington. In his brief remarks, the Borough President, who sat out the Congressional race by opting not to endorse any of the four candidates, said the new House member was "committed to public service."

Dr. Kendal Stewart, a City Councilman, joined in the chorus of praise, saying her victory was a reminder to immigrants and their children, "those who came by plane or by boat" that they too could succeed and perhaps follow in "Yvette's" footsteps.

Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the highly successful Medgar Evers College, put it differently, describing the lawmaker as a worthy "advocate" of the community that sent her to Capitol Hill.

When the time came for Clarke to respond after wiping away tears, she spoke out against the Iraq war and the Bush Administration's misplaced priorities which had resulted in \$130 billion needed to fix schools in the 11th Congressional District and elsewhere in the City, State and country being diverted to the Persian Gulf to finance a conflict "we don't want."

She said that as a member of the House's Committee that monitors the work of the Department of Homeland Security, she had already backed a measure, which would bring more funds into the City for the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Emergency Medical services.

Congresswoman Clarke insisted that the City urgently needed funds, federal dollars, for its schools, drug treatment programs and other social services. She took time out to thank the community, the hard-working campaign volunteers, staff and others who "came together" and worked to place her in Congress.

"I am thankful," she said.

She spoke about her parents, Leslie Clarke, father, and Una Clarke, mother, for the way they raised her, and the rest of the family from Jamaica who instilled core values in her.

With the Rev. Barbara Lucas as "the officiating minister, the celebration featured a mix of ecumenical blessings offered by a variety of religious ministers, including a Jewish Rabbi; dances by young performers of different cultural backgrounds; inspirational songs by a plethora of artists, among them was Brooklyn Temple Seventh Day Adventist mass choir; steelband music by members CASYM, a youth orchestra; and a celebratory procession by the Panamanian Marching Band. Dr. Harold Robinson, Trinidad and Tobago Consul-General, summed up the situation when he said that the Caribbean, the source of Congresswoman Clarke's early strength, might consist of countries with different languages but "we are all one."

Cynthia Brown-Franklin, Panama's Vice Consul-General, said afterwards "great things are expected of the Congresswoman and she will deliver on those dreams."

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE  
STANLEY W. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the career of Stanley W. Taylor. Stan has served in Delaware's Department of Correction for 30 years. He has proven to be a tough and formidable leader in an organization that requires exceptional skill, knowledge, and dedication. I commend Mr. Taylor for his years of service.

Stanley W. Taylor has been a Delaware resident since the age of 5. He was educated at Indian River High School and the University of Delaware. He began his career with the Department of Correction in 1976 when he served as a correctional officer at the Sussex Correctional Institution. He quickly moved through the ranks at Sussex Correctional, being promoted to the positions of correctional counselor, training academy director, security superintendent, and warden.

Stan's hard work and skill was recognized when he was promoted to chief of the Bureau of Prisons, a position in which he was responsible for all prison operations. When Department of Correction Commissioner Robert Watson retired in 1995, my colleague Senator TOM CARPER, who at the time was serving as Governor of Delaware, appointed Stan Taylor to serve as commissioner of the Department of Correction.

For more than 10 years, Stan Taylor has overseen an organization that is responsible for over 6,500 incarcerated offenders, over 18,000 probationers, and more than 10 correctional facilities. He is the first person in the history of the First State to begin his career as a correctional officer and rise through the ranks to eventually lead the Department of Correction as its commissioner.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Stan for his continued dedication to the correctional system. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our State. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 22, I was unavoidably detained in my home district and unable to record my roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote #46.

HONORING BOBBY L. MAXWELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby L. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell may not be familiar to you or to most of America, but on January 23rd, he accomplished something that the Bush Administration has failed to do for the last six years: hold oil companies accountable.

During recent consideration of H.R. 6, the Creating Long-term Energy Alternatives for the Nation or CLEAN Act, our Democratic majority called attention to the fact that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) at the Department of the Interior has failed to collect millions of dollars of royalties from oil and gas companies drilling in public waters. The Administration has largely ignored this problem and possible negligence by top officials at Interior, but last week's federal court decision that the Kerr-McGee Corporation has underpaid the government by approximately \$7.5 million should serve as a wake up call on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Unlike the Director of the Minerals Management Service and others at Interior, Bobby Maxwell did not turn a blind eye to the problem of oil companies underpaying or refusing to pay royalties for the use of public lands. Mr. Maxwell used to serve as a top auditor at MMS, but while he was doing his job investigating royalty underpayment by Kerr-McGee and others, senior Interior Department officials ordered him to drop his case. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell lost his job due to a "reorganization" shortly thereafter.

Bobby Maxwell did not give up, though. He knew that Kerr-McGee and others were cheating the Federal government and the American taxpayers out of millions of dollars, so he became a whistleblower. Despite having lost his job, Mr. Maxwell continued to stand up to the oil companies by bringing suit under the False Claims Act.

The jury found what Mr. Maxwell and many of us already knew: Kerr-McGee had indeed failed to pay the Federal government approximately \$7.5 million they owed for oil production from publicly owned coastal waters. I regret that Mr. Maxwell had to lose his job to expose the greed of this company and the failures at MMS, but his story is a positive one. Both he and the Federal government will benefit from his diligence and service. Kerr-McGee will have to pay significant penalties as a result of underpayment and false statements in their royalty reports. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell is not alone—three other auditors from MMS have filed whistleblowing cases against companies that the Interior Department blocked them from investigating.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Maxwell and these other dedicated public servants deserve our recognition and gratitude. They have stood up and declared that the public's trust and money both deserve our attention, respect, and protection. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Maxwell and congratulating him on a job well done. Let us follow his example by continuing to put accountability ahead of corporate profits.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST  
CLASS RYAN HILL

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today in this hallowed hall with a heavy heart and troubled spirit.

Here, but a few hours ago, we assembled in keeping with an annual ritual that proclaimed our Union to be strong, our nation to be sound.

Sadly, I must contest that notion.

We are not as strong as we could be, as we should be, we are not what we would be without Private First Class Ryan Hill.

For this past week, Private Hill was killed in Baghdad, Iraq. As a member of the 1st Infantry Division, he and his unit were performing duties in keeping with our efforts to foster peace and stability.

America lost someone special when we lost Ryan. He represented the better angels of our nature, he was the kind of young American we need more, not less.

Immediately following high school, Private First Class Hill joined the military to fight for his country, his community—to fight for his family and friends.

Far too often we find ourselves standing here, recognizing the loss of heroes.

Private Hill died while on patrol. Using an improvised explosive device—a weapon without honor, without conscience—our enemies stole from us the America that would have been.

Right now, the community of Keizer, Oregon is seeking comfort in the life and noble sacrifice of Ryan Hill.

This we must do; he answered the call of service voluntarily and fulfilled his duty without hesitation, without complaint.

Private First Class Hill was a model soldier, he was the kind of young man that made everyone around him better.

In correspondence home, he recognized the dangers—he knew well the price of freedom—and yet he soldiered on despite his situation.

His enthusiasm and compassion made Ryan a beacon of hope for his comrades in arms in the shadow of the loss of several friends just a short time ago.

That shadow is now a little denser, a little darker—it reaches farther than before. And this shadow makes the future, our future, less than what it would have been.

I am here today asking us all to consider well the choices before us. We have an opportunity to ensure the life and death of Private Ryan Hill are not forgotten, that his sacrifice endures within our memory.

Let us recommit ourselves to making this Nation a place worthy of the gift Ryan Hill has given us; let us commit ourselves anew.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR  
HERMAN M. WILLIAMSON

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the out-

standing lifelong accomplishments of Reverend Doctor Herman M. Williamson. A resident of Havre de Grace, Maryland, Reverend Dr. Williamson is a native of Evergreen, North Carolina, where he attended public schools and graduated with honors. After moving to Baltimore, Maryland, he completed studies at the Cortez Peters Business College. Reverend Dr. Williamson continued his education in engineering and administrative procedures in the Officers School while serving for five years in the United States Army. After his military service, Reverend Dr. Williamson attended Morgan State College.

After moving to Havre de Grace, Maryland, he joined and attended St. James A.M.E. Church before being called to the ministry. Reverend Dr. Williamson decided to return to his roots in the Baptist Church and joined Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach and served as Assistant Pastor to the late Reverend Milton C. Phillips. During this time, he completed his course of study at the Maryland Bible Institute. He was called to the pastorate of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on October 25, 1974 and two days later accepted the pulpit of the Havre de Grace church.

Over the years, Reverend Dr. Williamson has been an advocate of faithful service and positive change to assist the members of his church and the residents of Harford County. His outreach to the communities in and surrounding Havre de Grace has been unsurpassed. He supported and was instrumental in the establishment of the Harford County Fuel Fund, the Harford County Food and Nutrition Program and the St. James Cemetery Preservation Council. He is President Emeritus of the Deacon and Deaconess Union of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties and President Emeritus of the Ministerial Alliance of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties. He has also served as auditor of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries for the State of Maryland, Inc.

Reverend Dr. Williamson was the first black chaplain appointed to serve the Harford County Detention Center. He served on the Executive Board of the Harford Interfaith Community Service, Inc., the Neighbor to Neighbor Summit Advisory Committee for Harford County and the Hicks Advisory Board of Harford County. He was granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Bread of Life Ministries in Whiteville, North Carolina, in February 2002. In early 2007, Reverend Dr. Williamson was the recipient of the Joseph Bond Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from Harford County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in congratulating Reverend Dr. Herman Williamson for his lifelong and caring devotion to the people of Havre de Grace, Harford County, and the State of Maryland.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NYS  
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN LAVELLE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention the tremendously sad news of the passing of a dear

friend and fellow public servant. I rise today also to honor the memory, and take note of the tireless public service of, my good friend, the late New York State Assemblyman Jack Lavelle.

Jack and I were colleagues in the New York State Assembly from 2000, when he arrived as a freshman, until the end of 2004, when I left Albany after my initial election to Congress.

Madam Speaker, I do not exaggerate when I recount that it was a tremendous honor to serve with Jack, for I greatly valued his counsel, leadership, and friendship. More than that, what I will miss most about Jack is his tremendously warm and kindhearted spirit.

We always knew where Jack was from—his beloved borough of Staten Island. More importantly, Jack never forgot where he was from. Despite being from opposite ends of the state and being of different generations, Jack and I shared a commitment to our respective communities that I am proud to believe was very similar. Both of us were fortunate to learn early on that when you remember where you come from, when you follow the rules, love your family, and give back to your community anything is possible. Jack Lavelle was living proof of that.

Jack's public career was well known, and the respect Jack enjoyed from leaders throughout the state was impressive. Jack's history of community involvement is far too long to list in its entirety, but his work with countless educational committees, community boards and medical advisory councils were well known and well respected.

In November 2000, Jack's succession of revered Assemblywoman Betty Connelly allowed him to continue her legacy of commitment to Staten Island. So many of Jack's successes in Albany involved education, where he made great strides toward the improvement of New York City's public schools.

Jack always spoke with tremendous pride about his family, including his three sons, John, Christopher, and Danny and his grandchildren Jacob, Zachary and Julia. I am certain that all members of the House join with me to offer our most sincere condolences to Jack's family, lost so suddenly as he was.

When I think back about Jack, I think of how tremendously kind he was to me. Although ten years my senior in age, Jack often called me "Governor," because he always said, "Kid, you're going somewhere." When I announced my run for an open Congressional seat in 2004, Jack was among the first to call and offer encouragement. His friendship and support were as genuine as can be.

We all join with Jack's family in mourning his loss, and remain confident that the good work that he did, both in Staten Island and in Albany, has left a powerful legacy for many years to come. Rest in peace, Jack Lavelle; your work here is done, but your legacy will live on for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CÉSAR E.  
CHÁVEZ POST OFFICE ACT

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood

up for justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

During his life, César E. Chávez was committed to providing fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing, and quality education for all.

Mr. Chávez also served the United States proudly in the Navy during World War II.

His spirit and his vision are still alive today and I am determined to celebrate what he stood for and his great accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to rename the post office located at 2777 Logan Avenue in the Barrio Logan section of San Diego as the "César E. Chávez Post Office." This is the least we can do to honor such a great but humble man dedicated to justice. Please join me in giving Mr. Chávez his rightful place in American history.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER ABUSE AND HARASSMENT PREVENTION ACT: CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ALLOW BOUNTY HUNTERS TO ABUSE TAXPAYERS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced H.R. 695, the Taxpayer Abuse and Harassment Prevention Act of 2007, along with Representatives STEVE ROTHMAN, RUSS CARNAHAN and 42 other original cosponsors. If enacted into law, this legislation would repeal the provision tacked onto the 2004 corporate tax bill (H.R. 4520, the so-called American Jobs Creation Act in the 108th Congress) that hands over the tax returns of millions of American taxpayers to private contractors to collect delinquent taxes, and allows them to keep 25 percent of their take as a commission for services rendered.

Three weeks ago, on January 9th, in her annual report to Congress the National Taxpayer Advocate identified the IRS' private debt collection initiative as one of the most serious problems facing taxpayers and called on Congress to repeal the IRS's authority to use private collection agencies to collect federal taxes. The Advocate's report illustrated why the IRS private tax collection program is a waste of taxpayer dollars, invites overly aggressive collection techniques and jeopardizes the financial privacy of American taxpayers:

The IRS's Private Debt Collection initiative is not cost efficient, adds unnecessary costs and burdens to taxpayers, diminishes the improved image of the IRS, and surrenders too many valuable components of our tax administration system. Therefore, Congress should repeal IRC §6306 and thereby terminate the Private Debt Collection initiative.

We must repeal this provision because it opens the door to taxpayer intimidation and abuse, practices that have been outlawed by Congress. This practice amounts to bounty-hunting—at taxpayer expense—by allowing collection agencies to harass those same American taxpayers, many of whom are guilty of nothing, with the incentive of collecting their commission as their primary motivation. Giving unaccountable outside bounty hunters unfettered access to Americans' personal financial data poses a risk that we just cannot afford.

What's more worrisome is the IRS' inability to oversee the work of these private debt collectors. A 1996 pilot program for private collection was so unsuccessful that a similar pilot program planned for 1997 was cancelled outright. The contractors used in the pilot programs regularly broke the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, did not protect the security of personal taxpayer information, and even then failed to bring in a net increase in revenue. An audit report of the pilot program found that, "contractors blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel identified inappropriate practices." In fact, the report found that contractors made hundreds of calls to taxpayers during times prohibited by the FDCPA, and that calls were even placed as early as 4:19 a.m.

While IRS employees are explicitly forbidden from being evaluated on the basis of revenue collected, the private collection scheme would actually link contractor pay to the amount of revenue collection. This policy encourages contractors to use aggressive collection techniques to boost their remuneration. Furthermore, the IRS is currently liable for damages to a taxpayer resulting from the misuse of confidential information by an IRS employee, but taxpayers will not be able to recover damages from the federal government where contractors are guilty of malfeasance.

The House had already expressed its will that this provision not become law when it approved by voice vote an amendment to the FY2005 Treasury Appropriations bill that prevented the expenditure of any federal funds for private collection of federal taxes. Unfortunately, the Treasury Appropriations bill never became law, and the House language was stripped out of the FY 2005 omnibus spending bill by the Republican leadership in the conference—behind closed doors, in the dead of night.

We must repeal this onerous provision. We must protect American taxpayers from intimidation and abuse. We must ensure that personal financial records are protected and remain private. Two decades ago this Congress passed the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act specifically to protect Americans from intimidation and abuse, but last year this Congress perpetrated an injustice by allowing these very abuses to go forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working with the IRS to find a more effective means of collecting delinquent tax debt collection and avoid this risky scheme altogether. Let's pass the Taxpayer Abuse and Harassment Prevention Act.

## TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY LAZAR ELENOVSKI

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to a man I am proud to recognize, His Excellency Lazar Elenovski, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia, on the occasion of his visit to the United States.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long his-

tory of dedication and commitment to international relations.

Minister Elenovski was born in 1971 in Skopje, Macedonia, and went on to graduate from the Faculty of Economy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. A member of the New Social Democratic Party of Macedonia, a part of the coalition government, he was appointed Minister of Defense in August 2006.

Minister Elenovski has long been a great advocate for Atlanticism in Macedonia. He worked to promote and implement the Euro-Atlantic idea and values in Macedonian society in the early 1990s. This effort culminated in his founding of Young Europeans for Security (YES) in 1995.

He was also one of the founders of the Social Democratic Youth of Macedonia (SDYM), and served as its Secretary General from 1996–1999, and then as its president until 2001. He was a member of the Presidency of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia from 1997 until 2003. He is a signer of the Protocol for Cooperation between the SDYM and PASOK Youth in Athens in 2001.

Between 2001 and 2005, Minister Elenovski served as Secretary General of the Euro-Atlantic Club of Macedonia, and in late 2005, was elected President of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, a member of the Atlantic Treaty Association. During this time he was also Deputy LEO of Public Transport in Skopje.

He has implemented many initiatives for the support of NATO and EU integration projects in his nation, for the civilization values of Atlanticism, and notably for the democratic development of Macedonia. In May of 2004, he initiated and served as a signatory of the Declaration for Euro-Atlantic Partnership and Cooperation between the Atlantic Associations of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia. He is also a founder of the Central and South Eastern European Security Forum-Balkan Mosaic.

Minister Elenovski is known as an advocate for regional cooperation and integration. Along with civil and local authorities, he has worked on many regional and international projects which strengthened regional cooperation, and improved the security and stability of the nation and region.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Minister Elenovski's friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of a true leader, the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia, Lazar Elenovski.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

**HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act, which will provide Federal resources to preserve and promote one of America's greatest natural wonders.

Every time I make the long drive across my congressional district, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to represent a region with such a diverse geographic make-up. From the Ontario shoreline, to vast vineyards and apple orchards, to the waterfront on Lake Erie, Mother

Nature has bestowed some of her finest treasures upon western New York. But none are as recognized world-wide as Niagara Falls, which attracts more than 7 million visitors annually. The Niagara River Gorge is an exceptionally scenic corridor, carved by the movement of the falls beginning over 10,000 years ago. Federal recognition of this geological wonder and the Niagara frontier is long overdue.

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will provide Federal resources to help heighten national appreciation for the falls' natural splendor and the region's contributions to our Nation's history. The bill is critically important to the district I represent. With the steady decline in manufacturing, the western New York economy has become increasingly dependent on tourism. In addition to recognizing the falls in our Nation's development, the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will help revitalize and strengthen the local economy by creating a comprehensive strategy to attract tourists to the region.

Niagara Falls is a geological wonder that has been a world-renowned tourist destination for more than 200 years. Rich in natural and cultural resources, the Niagara falls area has significant historical associations with Native Americans, early European exploration, the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Underground Railroad. In addition, the falls have long been an important site for hydroelectric power and ancillary industries. Together, these elements have greatly contributed to the development of the United States and deserve Federal recognition as a national landmark.

A National Heritage Area designation will heighten appreciation for the region, better preserve its natural and historic resources, improve coordination among existing programs at the site, enhance the quality of life, and expand the economy of the Niagara region. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area will be comprised of the area stretching from the western boundary of the town of Wheatfield to the mouth of the Niagara River, and from the river to Lake Ontario. It will also include the city of Niagara Falls, the villages of Youngstown and Lewiston, and all land and water lying within these boundaries. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area will be managed by a Federal Commission for its first 5 years in existence before being turned over to a local management entity. This bill has widespread public support, and a Niagara Falls National Heritage Area has been endorsed by the National Park Service.

Madam Speaker, Niagara Falls has always been a source of pride for western New York. But the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act will help to solidify its standing as something more: an engine for the revitalization and promotion of our region's natural, historic, and scenic resources to residents and visitors alike. I look forward to working toward passage of this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C.  
DAVIDSON, JR.

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Robert C. David-

son, Jr. upon being named recipient of Morehouse College's Bennie Leadership Award for the year 2007.

Robert Davidson's long and distinguished career began in the late 1960s, when he began as a Management Consultant with the New York-based Cresap, McCormick and Paget. Robert later moved to Boston, where he cofounded and served as Vice President of the Urban National Corporation, a private venture capital company established with a commitment to increase industry's investment in minority-controlled businesses.

Mr. Davidson's entrepreneurial spirit continued as he served as Chief Executive Officer of Avant Garde Enterprises, and it later led him to develop and head his own management and consulting firm. In 1978, Robert formed Surface Protection Industries, Inc. (SPI) and served as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Under his leadership, SPI developed into one of California's leading African-American-owned manufacturing companies.

Robert Davidson has a strong commitment to community involvement and voluntary service. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (NYSE); Broadway Federal Bank (NASDAQ); Fulcrum Venture Capital Corporation; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business Advisory Council; Art Center College of Design in Pasadena; the South Coast Air Quality Management District Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation; and the Los Angeles Urban League.

Prior board affiliations include Children's Hospital of Los Angeles; Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Rebuild LA; Museum of Contemporary Art; Charles Drew University School of Medicine; Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena; Shaare Zedek Medical Center Jerusalem; Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; Falcon Cable Community Ventures; the African/American Museum of Art; the Black-Jewish Economic Development Committee of Los Angeles; Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles; the Weingart Center for the Homeless; and the Planning Commission for the City of Pasadena.

Mr. Davidson lives in Pasadena with his wife Faye and their three sons, Robert III, John Roderick, and Julian.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding individual of California's 29th Congressional District, Robert C. Davidson, Jr. The entire community joins me in thanking Robert for his success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live and work.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Federation is one of the oldest and largest conserva-

tion organizations in Pennsylvania. Since 1932, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has been the leading advocate of our outdoor heritage, wildlife habitat and environmental protection in the Commonwealth.

For three-quarters of a century this great organization has worked diligently to defend the rights of individuals under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as ensure the rights of all citizens to a healthy environment. The Federation was the driving force behind the passage of the Nation's first environmental laws, including PA's Clean Streams Law in 1937.

Throughout its proud history, the Federation has been a strong partner in conservation with our State and Federal natural resource and wildlife management agencies, such as the PA Game Commission, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In cooperation with these public agencies, the Federation has helped to conserve precious wildlife habitat, protect clean water, and provide countless recreational opportunities for millions of American citizens.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, past and present, for their 75 years of distinguished service to the United States of America.

A WISE CHOICE FOR SPEAKER

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, no one who knew them both could ever deny the power of the relationship and marriage between Phil and Sala Burton. It brought together two people who cared deeply about America and believed strongly in progressive values and actions. As the enclosed article notes, Sala Burton saw these same values and talent in our new Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, many years ago. When Sala, seriously ill, asked NANCY PELOSI to run for her congressional seat, she was acting on the same values and trust that she and Phil brought to public life. Sala made a decision that changed the history of the House of Representatives and our country forever.

I would like to share the article with our colleagues:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 3, 2007]

SALA'S CHOICE

NANCY PELOSI CARRIES ON A POWERFUL LEGACY

(By Harold Meyerson)

Sala Galant Lipschultz Burton made two critical decisions during her lifetime, the full meaning of which could not have been apparent to her at the time she made them. The first, in the early 1950s, was to marry a young lawyer and Democratic activist named Phil Burton, who was to become the single most important member of the House of Representatives in the '60s and '70s.

As a leader of the California Young Democrats and a rising force in San Francisco politics, the young Phil Burton had already won a reputation for his political brilliance—and for his explosive temper. Nobody worked harder for liberal causes. Nobody demanded more of his associates and staffers: If they



didn't match his crazy hours, his ability to count votes or his understanding of the art of the deal, they'd be subjected to eruptions from the Burton volcano.

Throughout his career, in fact, the biggest obstacle to Burton's success was his rage. That he accomplished as much as he did was due in part to Sala. The late John Jacobs, whose 1995 biography of Burton, "A Rage for Justice," is one of the great political biographies of the past quarter-century, reported that Sala was Phil's confidante, co-strategist and champion, but that was only the beginning. "She cleaned up his messes," Jacobs wrote, "soothing and placating those he insulted or abused. She alone could intervene in a conversation to shut him up."

Phil Burton was first elected to the House in 1964. In his 19 years as a congressman—he died of a ruptured aorta in 1983—he was responsible for the legislation that established Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the aged, blind and disabled; created black-lung compensation for coal miners; increased the minimum wage; made strikers eligible for food stamps; greatly expanded the size and number of national parks; and abolished the House Un-American Activities Committee. More broadly, he broke the power of the old Dixiecrat barons in the House by subjecting committee chairmanships to secret ballot elections within the Democratic caucus. He engineered reapportionments of California that were greatly to his party's benefit, and he steered contributions to the Democratic candidates who needed them most.

When he died, Sala succeeded him in a special election. Just four years later, in January 1987, Sala herself lay dying of cancer. She asked Phil's brother, John Burton, who had represented an adjoining congressional district in San Francisco, to come to the hospital and told him that she wanted "Nancy" to succeed her. For a moment, John Burton was unsure which Nancy she was referring to, but as she explained to family and friends at her bedside, the woman in question was the former California Democratic Party chair Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi had been associated with the Burtons since shortly after she and her husband had moved to San Francisco in the years when Phil's star was rising. The Pelosis had a large, attractive house, and the first thing she recalls Phil saying to her was, "We'll use this for fundraisers." But Phil's appreciation of Pelosi wasn't confined to her abilities as a hostess. He saw in her a commitment to progressive values and a clear political sense of how to turn those values into laws. When John stepped down from Congress in 1982, Phil asked Pelosi to stand for election to replace him, but she declined, saying her children were too young. Five years later, Sala, on her deathbed, evidently saw in Pelosi the same qualities that Phil had seen.

This time, her children older, Pelosi said yes, and in April she won a squeaker of a special election.

In the House, Pelosi has continually sought the counsel of another Burton protégé, George Miller, whose district is right across the Bay from hers. Appointed early on to a seat on the Appropriations Committee, she demonstrated, says the committee's new chairman, Wisconsin's David Obey, that she was "operational"—a Burton word meaning able to steer difficult measures to enactment.

When the Newt Gingrich Republicans swept to power in 1994, political almanac authors Michael Barone and Grant Ujifusa termed it "the collapse of the House that Phil Burton built." Nancy Pelosi, as smooth as Phil Burton was rough, is far more open to openness in the legislative process than her sometimes secretive mentor was. Politically, she understands the limits of the pos-

sible and that she can expand them only as far as the American people are willing to go. But she also knows that the American people want Congress to do any number of things that were stubbornly, and, in the end, suicidally resisted by the now-collapsed house that Newt Gingrich built.

The Burtonistas—with different causes and methods for a new era, to be sure—are back. Score two for you, Sala.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE JACK HUGHES

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask for the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Judge Jack Hughes, a highly respected public servant who is retiring from 19 years of service. Currently, Judge Hughes presides as Circuit Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Anniston, Alabama.

Judge Hughes has served our nation in a number of important capacities. Prior to graduating from the Birmingham School of Law in 1983, Judge Hughes served our Nation in the United States Army, as well as in a law enforcement capacity at the Anniston Police Department. After earning his law degree, he has worked in both private practice and has served as the Presiding Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, and Presiding Family Court Judge.

Our great Nation is made stronger by those who serve the common good. Jack Hughes has served his community and his Nation well, and for that we all extend to him our most hearty thanks. I salute Judge Hughes on this important occasion, and congratulate him on his service to the legal field and to our community.

#### RECOGNIZES ROBERT CLEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bob" Clement on the occasion of his retirement. A dedicated public servant for more than 40 years, Bob worked for many years in law enforcement and customs inspection, eventually finishing his career leading a youth mentoring program in New York City.

Bob began his career in government service when he entered the Army in December, 1963. Serving 6 years in the U.S. Army, including 2 years in Vietnam, Bob was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for ground action. Honorably discharged from the Army in April, 1970, Bob left with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Entering civilian government service in November 1970 as an original member of the Air Marshal Program, Bob served there throughout the 3 year pilot program commission. He then became a U.S. Customs Inspector, where in addition to the normal duties of a

Customs Officer he volunteered in 1991 for the collateral duty of serving as the advisor for a youth program sponsored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The program is known as Law Enforcement Exploring and may be sponsored by any Federal, State or local law enforcement agency. The program is open to young men and women, ages 14 to 21. Throughout the U.S. there are over 20,000 youth involved with this program. In the Greater New York Area there are over 4,000 explorers.

As the leader in youth law enforcement mentoring, Bob has been recognized by various governmental agencies for his dedication and hard work. Bob has twice been awarded the coveted Commissioner of Customs Award, twice named the Advisor of the Year in the Greater New York area, and awarded the title of Partner in Education for his contributions of leadership, expertise, service, and support to the youth in the New York City public school system. Finally, Bob was named the first ever recipient of the National Advisor of the Year Award in 2004.

Madam Speaker, Bob Clement has worked a lifetime helping others. His commitment to protecting our borders and to mentoring our children is to be commended. This Congress should take this moment to honor Bob on the occasion of his retirement and thank him for his service to our children and to our Nation.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GEORGE H. CARDINET, JR.

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of George Cardinet on January 19, 2007. California has lost a tireless leader whose many contributions as an outspoken advocate for trails and open space will be remembered and revered by the citizens of Contra Costa County and all who knew him.

George Cardinet was born on April 8, 1909, in San Francisco, California, to George H. Cardinet, co-founder of the Cardinet Candy Company, and Mary de Sales Cardinet. George succeeded his father as President of the company, and retired as a candy maker but his passion has long been for horses and trails and open space.

In 1940 George bought a ranch in Concord, California, which backed up to Mt. Diablo and began forging trails in what is now Mt. Diablo State Park. Each of the single-track trails on the eastern slope of the mountain was hand-built by George and his fellow horsemen. George was an avid equestrian and for 65 years worked tirelessly as an advocate for the preservation of public parks and the development of riding and hiking trails.

There are more than 200 miles of trails throughout the East Bay that Cardinet helped build. George was one of the leaders of the California State Trails Plan and his trail development in Contra Costa County served as a model for the California State Riding and Hiking Trails Act of 1945, and the California Recreational Trails Act of 1974. In 1968 he was instrumental in drafting the National Trails Act,

and was invited to the bill signing by President Lyndon Johnson. George insisted on the inclusion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail into the National Trails Act as a sister trail to the Appalachian Trail in the east.

George Cardinet initiated the establishment of the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail which was secured by law in 1990. He worked on the management plan and was Chairman of the Board of Amigos De Anza support group for the trail. He was honored at the American Trails Conference in November, 1998, by John Horsly, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation, for his initiative in organizing an international relay on horseback to highlight the De Anza Trail. Later under George's leadership, the De Anza Trail was designated a Millennium Trail and he was again invited to the White House. In appreciation of his efforts, First Lady Hillary Clinton presented him with a certificate that stated, in part, "Cardinet's leadership will play an important role in achieving the goal of a nationwide network of trails that preserve open spaces, interpret history and culture, and promote alternative transportation routes as well as recreation and tourism."

George Cardinet worked with the East Bay Regional Park District to annex portions of Contra Costa County with the park district to establish trail links between East Bay Regional Parks and Mt. Diablo State Park. For his long-standing and sustained advocacy of trails, George has become known as the Father of California Trails by the California State Horsemen's Association, and the Grandfather of the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail as well as the Grandfather of National Trails by the National Park Service.

Mr. Cardinet is survived by a brother, Walter M. Cardinet of Auburn, a son, Dr. George H. Cardinet III and daughter-in-law, Claudia Cardinet of Winters; and daughters Maureen Casteel and Michele Tomasulo and sons-in-law, Gary Casteel and Anthony Tomasulo, all of Concord.

Madam Speaker, because of George Cardinet's countless contributions as an open space and trail advocate, it is appropriate for us to honor him today.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF JALESSA CLEMENTS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Ms. Jaleesa Clements, a 16-year-old constituent of mine from Tuskegee, Alabama, tragically passed away recently.

According to those who knew her, Jaleesa was a highly intelligent young woman with a bright future. At school, she was recognized for her accomplishments as Miss Tuskegee Institute Middle School. Jaleesa had many talents, and also dedicated her time to serving in the Booker T. Washington High School Marching Aristocrats, where she served as the Majorette Captain. She was also a young woman with a strong faith, and contributed to her community by being an active member of St. James AME Church in Tuskegee, Alabama.

It is a tragedy indeed that a young person filled with such promise was taken from us at

such an early age. She will be missed dearly. On this mournful occasion, I ask that we all remember Jaleesa, and pray for her loved ones, her family, and her community as they grieve for her passing.

#### RECOGNIZING HJALMA E. JOHNSON OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hjalma E. Johnson, the recipient of the 4TH Annual Lincoln Heritage Award presented by the East Pasco Political Club. This prestigious award was established to recognize an outstanding community member for his or her commitment to the principles practiced and espoused by Abraham Lincoln, as well as for their humanitarian services to the community and to Pasco County.

An unassuming country boy whose reputation precedes him in the global marketplace, Mr. Johnson is President of Investment Advisors, Inc., and Triple J. Ranch, Inc. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Hyde Park Capital's Advisory Board, Moore, Clayton LLC, a London based merchant bank and Crews Banking Corp., Wauchula, FL. He is also a past President of the Florida Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association.

Mr. Johnson graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering with High Honors in 1958. A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Johnson served as a Counter-Intelligence Officer at the U.S. Army's European Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. He received a Juris Doctorate from Birmingham School of Law in 1965, is a member of the Alabama Bar, and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is a 1968 graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking, Rutgers University. In addition, he served on the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business Advisory Council and is the immediate past President of the University of Florida Gator Boosters.

A former Chairman of the Trustees of Saint Leo University, St. Leo, FL, Mr. Johnson served on the Salvation Army Service Committee, was inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame, and was a board member of the Fannie Mae National Advisory Council.

Mr. Johnson recently celebrated his fiftieth wedding anniversary with his high school sweetheart, Laura. Their son, Len, is a practicing attorney in Dade City, FL, where he resides with his wife, Nancy. Mr. Johnson's grandson, Brock, is a senior at the University of Florida, and his granddaughter, Paige, is a freshman at the University of Alabama.

Madam Speaker, Hjalma Johnson is well known for his compassion for others and for his commitment and passion to his community and profession. I am proud to honor him as an exemplary executive, husband, father and grandfather in Florida's 5th Congressional District, and as the 2007 recipient of the Lincoln Heritage Award from the East Pasco Political Club.

#### HONORING ROGER CARTER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE RURITAN CLUB

#### HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roger Carter, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who has recently been elected one of 7 National Directors for the Ruritan Club.

Roger Carter led the ticket in votes by garnering 503 of 666 ballots issued at the 76th Annual Ruritan National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Roger Carter is a member of the Ottway Ruritan Club where he has served as President, Vice President, Board of Directors and all Service Committees. The awards he has received: Club Ruritan of the Year, Outstanding President's Award, National President's Golden Key Award, and National President's VIP Award. He also has received the Tom Downing Fellow the highest award that a member can receive.

Roger Carter has served as President and Vice President of the Greene County Council of Ruritans.

Roger Carter is a resident of Afton, Tennessee, where he and Kimberly, his wife reside.

Roger Carter is a Transportation Technician 1 Roadway Inspector for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Roger also is a member of: Greeneville Optimist Club, United Volunteer Fire Department, Greeneville Moose Lodge #692, Greene County Agriculture Advisory Committee and Union Freewill Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring Roger Carter, a true servant of community, whose commitment and unwavering determination continue to make a lasting impact all throughout East Tennessee.

#### RETIREMENT OF MR. RICHARD J. CONNELLY OF THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Richard J. Connelly. Having served his country for more than 38 years, he retired from the Federal Government on January 3, 2007. His record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon himself and upon the organizations with which he has served.

Mr. Connelly is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has received numerous awards over his career including a 2003 Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. Beginning his Federal career as an Army Signal Officer in 1968, Mr. Connelly joined the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in 1972 as a management intern in the budget office. In 1986, he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and was named the chief of the



budget division. He later served as DLA Comptroller, as Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center, and as the Director, DLA Support Services.

Mr. Connelly grew up in Boston and graduated from Boston College in 1968. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps, and served one year in Vietnam. Mr. Connelly attended Stanford University Graduate School of Business as a Sloan Fellow and received a Master of Science degree in management in 1978.

Mr. Connelly became Director of Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) on November 3, 2003, directing the Department of Defense organization that is responsible for purchasing and managing all petroleum resources used by the United States military. In addition, Mr. Connelly has guided the growing mission of total energy support by developing strategies to buy and sell deregulated electricity and natural gas to federal agency customers.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Richard J. Connelly on his retirement from Federal Civil Service. He epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that make our Federal government a model all over the world.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I am pleased to once again be joined in this effort by Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization, and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides retiring military with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50% of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which partici-

pants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20% of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this was clearly not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Madam Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 400 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition last year. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their community. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the President's recent focus on the need for more math and science teachers, as well as his support for adjunct and alternative routes to teaching programs, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our Nation's classrooms.

Madam Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This bill would still require participants to teach in high-need schools, as defined by the Department, but if no such school exists within a 50-mile radius of the participant, that participant will be eligible to fulfill the obligation in a school that serves low-income students under the original definition. This ensures that Troops partici-

pants teach in high-need schools first and foremost, but are not locked out of the program based on the demographic make-up of their communities.

This is a pragmatic solution that is perfectly consistent with the spirit of No Child Left Behind while also supporting our veterans and students by maximizing opportunities for participation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our Nation's veterans.

#### TRIBUTE TO FIRST GRADE CLASS AT RACCOON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first-grade students at Raccoon Elementary School in Centralia, Illinois. In just 2 weeks, these young boys and girls raised \$111 to buy care packages for local soldiers serving in the Middle East.

With the guidance of their teachers, Wendy Bookhout and Amy Verble, the first-graders were the first participants in the Raccoon PRIDE program. This character building education plan challenges students to praise, encourage, and respect others as well as to get involved in their community, help others, and to do the right thing.

The students donated the money they raised to Steve Smith's Second Soldier Christmas Drive. Mr. Smith then sent the care packages containing quilts, phone cards, bibles, cookies, and socks, as well as many other items for the holidays.

I am pleased to congratulate the following Raccoon first-grade class for their hard work and dedication to helping others. God bless them for their service.

Jimmy Dale Allison, Dillion Michael Adams, Abraham August Applegate, Jonathan Altom, Jeremy Joseph Cameron, Mara Kalyn Bookhout, McKenzie Christine Card, Timothy Tyler Donoho, Paige Danielle Gooden, Anna Draper, Abbie Elaine Harris, Alyssa Finley, Skylar Elizabeth Keele, Autumn Dawn George.

Devon Michael Dwain Milburn, Cameron Tyler Hoard, Anastasia Marie Moistner, Kelsey Marie Littleton, Caleb Emmerson Michael Page, Valarie Marie Meadows, Shianne Alexis Smith, Shawn M. Morton, Molly Ann Thompson, Barbara Shiann Pauley, Justin Kyle Tindall, Rex Nicholas Rexilius, Katlyn Paige Whipple, Ryan Lloyd Tate, and Carter John Wilson.

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARO

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to remember the brave and heroic life of Barbaro. This magnificent racehorse connected with so many Americans because of his drive and determination.

A Rocky Balboa figure, Barbaro continued to fight even when the odds were strongly stacked against him. While many veterinarians said that a horse could not survive with the type of injuries Barbaro sustained at the Preakness, he fought for over 8 months, greatly exceeding expectations. What followed the injury was an outpouring of support not frequently seen in our world today. Letters, donations and gifts came in from all over the world, all because of what this wonderful horse embodied.

Barbaro had a strong connection to my home State of Delaware as he raced at Delaware Park and was trained by local trainer Michael Matz. The Barbaro story is an inspirational tale that will be remembered for generations. While a racing champion many times over, Barbaro's greatest talent was bringing people together and inspiring them.

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IN HONOR OF MICHAEL L.  
PHILLIPS

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**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Leo Phillips, a man who spent the past 37 years serving the students of Indiana State University, ISU, in Terre Haute. Mr. Phillips passed away on January 18, 2007 at the age of 60.

After graduating from ISU in 1969, Mr. Phillips remained in Terre Haute to work in the university's financial aid office, of which he would later become director. In 1995 Phillips became the student ombudsman at his alma mater, a role which allowed him to personally interact with and assist students.

Beyond all of his hard work at ISU, Mr. Phillips was actively involved in the Terre Haute community. He served as trustee and treasurer for the Spruce Street AME Church. His community involvement included serving as president of the Young Men's Civic Club; membership in the NAACP, I-Club, and 100 Concerned African American Men; and volunteering with the Vigo County Youth Football League, and Bambino youth baseball. He served on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and as a trustee of the Stewart Lawn Cemetery Association. He was an adviser to many student organizations at ISU and a mentor to students at Sarah Scott Middle School.

In college Phillips played both basketball and baseball. He was on the 1967–68 Sycamores basketball team, which reached the NCAA Tournament championship game and was inducted into the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005.

Michael Phillips will be greatly missed by his wife Rita, four children, and his many friends and family in Terre Haute and beyond. Mr. Phillips will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for students, a community leader, an accomplished student-athlete, and a loving family man.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF ERNEST  
MENDOZA

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to the life of Chief Ernest Mendoza. Chief Mendoza was a dedicated public servant, whose spirit and drive impacted the lives of all of those he encountered. On January 19th Chief Mendoza was on his way home from work when he was killed by a drunk driver. His sudden and tragic death has brought sadness and sorrow not only to his family but also to the students and staff of the Needville Independent School District and the communities of Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

This 54-year-old father of seven was a Christian and military veteran who led an honorable life. As a part of the Needville Independent School District Police for the past 10 years, and a law enforcement officer for 25, Chief Mendoza's drive and passion for public safety touched many of his fellow officers on the police force. Students and teachers in Fort Bend County will always remember his welcoming smile and that he protected them with care.

His family has established The Ernest Mendoza Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund in his honor. This fund is representative of the commitment and sacrifice which characterized Chief Mendoza's years of service, his character, and integrity. In death, as in life, he and his family continue to be dedicated to educating our Nation's youth in safe and adequate public schools.

My sincerest condolences go to the family, friends, and colleagues of Chief Ernest Mendoza. May God provide peace and comfort to his loved ones, and to those he protected.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, to join me in honoring Chief Mendoza and his family by entering his name and legacy into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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FULLY FUNDING IMPACT AID

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**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Aid Act, GRADE-A, H.R. 701, a bill to ensure the Federal government fully funds the Impact Aid program.

In 1950, President Harry Truman established the Impact Aid program to meet the revenue shortfalls in school districts and communities that occur in districts with federally owned land, which are exempt from State and local property taxes. Public schools are required by law to accept all children from military families, Native American reservations or other Federal establishments. This puts a severe financial burden on school districts that educate a significant number of federally connected children, diminishing the overall quality of education, and increasing the funding burden on local taxpayers.

For years Impact Aid was fully funded and offered some of the strongest direct assistance to military families across the Nation. Unfortunately, over the last decade we have fallen behind on this commitment. GRADE-A has garnered bipartisan support and offers the opportunity to reverse this negative trend.

Earlier this Congress I introduced H.R. 12, in order to ensure that students in my district continue to receive the resources needed to succeed. I introduced this bill to help North Chicago continue to qualify as "heavily impacted" and therefore, receive maximum funding, and to ensure that Glenview and Highland Park receive fair compensation.

I believe that it is crucial for schools outside of my district that are affected by the presence of the Federal government to receive support from the Impact Aid program as well. This funding is necessary to maintain school quality, protect surrounding communities from financial burden and to fulfill an obligation to our men and women serving overseas, by caring for their families at home.

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TRIBUTE TO JIM HAMILTON

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**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend in South Carolina aviation, community activist, and real humanitarian, Jimmie L. "Jim" Hamilton. Jim is a true friend to me and to many other South Carolinians whose lives he has touched through his work and his service.

Although Jim Hamilton has been recognized as South Carolina Aviator of the Year, been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina; and received the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas Walt Disney Award, he remains a humble man whose big heart and bigger personality mask the adversities he has faced.

The son of a commercial fisherman and ship maintenance father, Jim grew up in Florida's Lower Matecumbe Key, where he was the only school-aged child. He took a boat to school, until his family relocated to Miami, where he attended high school. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Jim's career in the military would change the course of his life. He became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, but he always wanted to be a pilot. Since the Army required officers to fly, Jim applied to officer training school and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From 1949–1958, he flew spotter planes for the Army. Jim maintains that learning to fly shaped his character and taught him honor and determination.

When Jim left the Army in 1958, he became a flight instructor and Jack-of-all-trades with Aircraft Sales and Service at the Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, South Carolina, but he always wanted to own his own business.

In 1961, Jim's life changed completely when his wife, Geraldine, died in a car accident. He was left to care for 3 young boys. His mother moved to Columbia from Florida to manage the household, and just a few months later, Jim was managing Owens Field airport.

The next year, he opened Midlands Aviation in a 1-room office in the Five Points area of

Columbia. He got a contract selling Cessna airplanes, and when he sold the 50,000th plane Cessna manufactured, his fledgling company got a lot of attention in the trade publications. This launched his business to new heights.

From the early days of his business, Jim realized there was a need for support of private airplane owners in Columbia. He had to pay to keep his stock of Cessnas at Owens Field, and he had to transport them to Aiken to be serviced. So in 1964, Jim moved Midlands Aviation onsite at Owens Field. He used a trailer as his office and installed fuel tanks nearby. Later he was able to purchase the building that once housed the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

For 44 years, Jim provided fuel, parts and service at Owens Field, a contract that he sold in October 2006. He has also managed the county-owned airport since 1961, and continues to do so earning a salary of \$1 per month. One could say that Owens Field is Jim Hamilton's life. However, there is so much more to Jim Hamilton.

In 1974, he started the Jamil Flying Fezzes, which provides free flights for handicapped or burned children to specialty hospitals. He mentors fourth graders through the Rotary Club, helps the Salvation Army recruit bell ringers at Christmas, and for the last 10 years he has driven ladies in a local retirement home on weekly shopping trips. He has also been a member of the South Carolina Board for Mental Retardation and the Babcock Center Board.

Jim has served 3 4-year terms on the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, and served as its Chairman twice. He has served 2 terms as President of the South Carolina Aviation Trades Association. He was elected Governor and Key man of the Columbia Hangar "Quiet Birdmen." And he has dedicated much of his spare time to educating young people about the adventures of flying.

Jim has been married to his second wife, Patricia, since 1966, and between them they have 5 children. Jimmie Jr., his oldest son and a talented airplane mechanic, tragically drowned in 2000. Despite the difficulties and tragedies in his personal life, Jim has always put others needs ahead of his own.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Jim Hamilton. He is an outstanding businessman and community leader, who has overcome many challenges in his life and still put others first. He says that flying taught him honor and dedication, and there are many people today who thank Jim Hamilton for passing those qualities along to them.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF  
PREUSS SCHOOL UCSD ROBOTICS  
TEAM

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Preuss School UCSD robotics team. Team 812, known as the Midnight Mechanics, have competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition—an annual robot design and construction

contest that draws over 20,000 participants from all over the world—for the past 5 years.

For 2 years in a row, Team 812 has won the Regional Chairman's Awards for the Southern California Region. During the 2003–2004 competition, the Midnight Mechanics won the National Engineering Inspiration Award.

But Team 812's accomplishments do not end outside the engineering lab or the construction shop. The team has initiated the FIRST BUDDY program to mentor disadvantaged students in math and science and established the FIRST STEPS program to reach out to inner-city high school students and share with them their zeal for science.

Team 812 has also brought their passion into the classrooms and corridors of 10 other high schools in the San Diego area and has helped them field robotics teams of their own. Together the Midnight Mechanics and these 10 newer teams have formed the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, a coordinating organization to build new partnerships in the community and recruit more high schools to field robotics teams.

I am proud to report that through the hard work of the Midnight Mechanics and the Team San Diego FIRST Robotics Coalition, the City of San Diego will be hosting its inaugural FIRST Regional Competition this coming March.

At a time when our country's young people are falling farther and farther behind those of other industrialized nations in math and science, I want to commend the members of Team 812, for their dedication to their craft, for their excellence in their efforts, and for their ability to instill a love of science in fellow young people. Not only are the Midnight Mechanics first-rate competitors, they are also true servants of the community. We need more role models like these to inspire our younger children.

Finally, I want to recognize Paul Tran, the dedicated young man who first brought Team 812 to my attention. Paul wrote the following to me in a letter:

We need your help to assist us in instituting FIRST Robotics in every high school in San Diego, in California, and essentially, the United States . . . We need your help to bring FIRST to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Madam Speaker, dear colleagues, I hope you will help me fulfill Paul's request and spread the word about this wonderful program to all corners of our country.

MOROCCO: A MODEL OF MUSLIM-  
JEWISH TIES

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request that Serge Berdugo's recent op-ed, "Morocco: A Model of Muslim-Jewish Ties", as published in the January 9 issue of The Christian Science Monitor, be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Berdugo, the president of Morocco's Jewish Community Council, outlines the history of Muslim-Jewish relations in Morocco, where Jews and Muslims have peacefully lived as neighbors for hun-

dreds of years. I commend this work to all who want a lasting peace between Jews and Muslims across the world, and everyone who wishes to see the State of Israel and its neighbors coexisting harmoniously.

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO.—As the flames of anti-Semitism continue to be fanned across much of the Islamic world, there is a risk that today's youth will grow up believing that Arabs and Jews were simply not meant to coexist, let alone thrive together.

That idea conflicts with history—and is a falsehood today. My country, Morocco, illustrates the viability and vitality of a Jewish community—my community—in an Arab country. It's a model of harmony other Muslim nations should follow.

The Jewish people have been a presence in Africa's Maghreb region for more than 2,000 years. North African Jews and Muslims traveled north and thrived together in southern Europe for more than 700 years. In 1492, when we refused to convert to Christianity, we were expelled—together—from Spain. And together we successfully sought refuge in Morocco, which accepted us into its society and institutions.

Morocco's leaders have always made the well-being of the Jewish people a top priority. During World War II, when the Vichy government of occupied France announced that it had prepared 200,000 yellow stars for the Jews of Morocco, King Mohammed V replied that he would need 50 more for him and his family. He refused to make any distinction between his citizens.

The importance of a nation's leader setting the tone for recognition, respect, and treatment of minority faiths cannot be overstated. Today, King Mohammed VI has declared his religious, historical, and constitutional obligation to protect the rights, liberties, and sacred values of the Jews in Morocco.

This commitment dramatically affected Morocco's reaction at moments of great challenge. After May 16, 2003—the Moroccan 9/11, when five terrorist bombs exploded, three directed at Jewish targets—King Mohammed VI expressed condolences at a Jewish Center, condemning the criminal acts and reaffirming his determination to protect Jews and all Moroccan citizens.

In doing so, he defined the attack as one upon all Moroccan society, awakening the national conscience and strengthening the bonds between us. Moroccans of all faiths responded with candlelight vigils at bombing sites and demonstrations attended by nearly 1 million participants.

Many Moroccan Jews have emigrated to Israel and elsewhere, but the attachments to our homeland are unique. "Morocco never loses a Jewish citizen—we gain an ambassador," Mohammed VI's predecessor, King Hassan II, once said. Today, there are 1 million such "ambassadors" all over the world and 600,000 in Israel alone.

We Jews who call Morocco home have a vibrant community that includes 30 functioning synagogues and three school networks, which many influential Muslim families choose for their own children. Moroccan Jews serve as counselors to the king, ministers, colonels, members of parliament, judges, and ambassadors. On Jewish holy days, Muslim authorities, out of respect, attend our services.

With help from the Moroccan government, we started a foundation to preserve Jewish historical sites. And we support research on our community—including 30 doctoral dissertations presently under way by Muslim candidates.

Are we an isolated society? Hardly: Moroccans young and old have access to as wide an array of media and ideological diversity as

anywhere in the Islamic world. Yes, the extremists' call is heard here, too, but make no mistake—it's the response that differs. The tones of tolerance, trumpeted by a government that believes that Moroccan Judaism is an intrinsic and permanent part of the national culture, overwhelm the extremists' siren song.

Are we a historical accident or the path forward? Perhaps the answer is that our historical good fortune now has to be transformed into a model for others. We are more relevant outside our border than ever before.

Other world leaders must realize that the path forward lies not in fanning the fires of the moment, but in setting a tone of authentic coexistence that will endure.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP ANDREW STOUT

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolina businessman, who has been honored by his peers for his extraordinary work. Phillip Andrew "Andy" Stout owns and operates the Shoney's restaurant just minutes from my Santee, South Carolina office, and he has been recognized as the Shoney's 2006 Franchisee of the Year.

Andy Stout operates five Shoney's in South Carolina, and owns three of them. In addition to his recognition as Franchisee of the Year, two of Mr. Stout's restaurants were honored for their outstanding sales. This recognition did not come easily. Mr. Stout learned to excel in his profession by starting at the ground level and working his way up.

As a teenager, he began working as a busboy in his stepfather's Shoney's restaurant in Sumter, South Carolina. Two years later, he moved up to become Kitchen Manager. Mr. Stout then took a short break from Shoney's to serve as General Manager of a Captain D's restaurant. However, he took that experience and used it to become General Manager of Shoney's in Sumter.

His years of hard work and training paid off in 1994, when he formed P.A.S. Enterprises and purchased his first Shoney's in Manning, South Carolina. He added to his holdings in 2003 and 2005 by purchasing Shoney's in Santee and Dillon respectively. Mr. Stout continues to oversee the daily operations of the Sumter Shoney's and is a partner in the Shoney's in Walterboro.

Mr. Stout has received numerous awards for the performance of his Shoney's restaurants in addition to his 2006 Franchisee of the Year award. He also takes time to serve on the Board of Shoney's Franchise Advisor Council, and he serves his community on the Board of Trustees at Thomas Sumter Academy.

He is married to Donna L. Stout and together they have six children, Nicole, Rina, Austin, Elizabeth, Olin and Rebekah Ann.

I speak often of the need to improve the plight of counties along the I-95 corridor, and I commend Mr. Stout for the example he sets in running these successful businesses along I-95. His story shows that hard work and initiative can create opportunities for oneself and for one's community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Andy Stout

for his entrepreneurial spirit and his leadership in the Shoney's organization and the community. I have been a customer in several of his restaurants and can attest to the quality of service they provide. I wish him continued success and Godspeed.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JANUARY 31

9:15 a.m.

##### Foreign Relations

To continue hearings to examine securing America's interests in Iraq, focusing on the remaining options in Iraq in the strategic context.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

##### Rules and Administration

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments.

SR-301

##### Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine ensuring the economic future by promoting middle-class prosperity.

SD-106

9:45 a.m.

##### Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operation; to be followed by a hearing to examine the roles of Federal food assistance programs in family economic security and nutrition.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

##### Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding the Iraq "surge" plan.

SR-222

##### Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; to be followed by a hearing to examine the Department of the Treasury's report to Congress on Inter-

national Economic and Exchange Rate Policy (IEERP) and the U.S.-China strategic economic dialogue.

SD-G50

#### Budget

To hold hearings to examine solutions to long-term fiscal challenges.

SD-608

#### Finance

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, subcommittee assignments, and the nominations of Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of Social Security, and Dean A. Pinkert, of Virginia, and Irving A. Williamson, of New York, each to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

#### Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; committee will also consider the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

SD-430

#### Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Iraq Study Group, focusing on recommendations for improvements to Iraq's police and criminal justice system.

SD-226

#### Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Federal small business assistance programs for veterans and reservists.

SR-428A

10:30 a.m.

#### Aging

To hold hearings to examine if Medicare Part D is working for low-income seniors.

SD-562

11:30 a.m.

#### Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 202, to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, S. 216, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest and certain non-Federal land in the Pecos National Historical Park in the State of New Mexico, S. 220, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A&B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 232, to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements, S. 235, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, S. 240, to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, S. 241, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, S. 245, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, S. 255, to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, S. 260, to establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National

Conservation Area, S. 262, to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, S. 263, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy, S. 264, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon, S. 265, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon, S. 266, to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, S. 268, to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, S. 275, to establish the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in the State of New Mexico, S. 277, to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, S. 278, to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas in the United States, S. 283, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, S. 320, to provide for the protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands, H.R. 57, to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands, and S. 200, to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing to examine economic and security concerns relating to promoting travel to America.

SR-253

## Armed Services

## Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine abusive practices in Department of Defense contracting for services and inter-agency contracting.

SR-222

## Judiciary

## Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine challenges and strategies for securing the U.S. border.

SD-226

## FEBRUARY 1

9:15 a.m.

## Foreign Relations

To continue hearings to examine securing America's interests in Iraq, focusing on the remaining options in Iraq in the strategic context.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gen. George W. Casey Jr., USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff, United States Army.

SR-325

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine accelerated biofuels diversity, focusing on how home-grown, biologically derived fuels can blend into the nation's transportation fuel mix.

SDG-50

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carl Joseph Artman, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; to be followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination.

SR-485

10 a.m.

## Budget

To hold hearings to examine the current account deficit and the foreign debt of the United States.

SD-608

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine a view from the Federal Communications Commission relating to assessing the communications marketplace.

SR-253

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine improving the health of America's children relating to the future of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine privacy implications of the Federal government's health information technology initiative relating to private health records, focusing on the efforts of Department of Health and Human Services to integrate privacy into the Health Information Technology national infrastructure and Office of Personnel Management's efforts to expand the use of Health Information Technology through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the impact such actions have on Federal employees' health information privacy.

SD-342

## Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Michael McConnell, of Virginia, to be Director of National Intelligence.

SD-106

## Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

## FEBRUARY 5

2 p.m.

## Judiciary

## Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine genocide and the rule of law.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 6

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2008 and the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 war supplemental requests in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

## FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine if the Department of Justice is politicizing the hiring and firing of U.S. attorneys relating to preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine climate change research and scientific integrity.

SR-253

## FEBRUARY 8

9 a.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's foreign affairs budget.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to labor, immigration, law enforcement, and economic conditions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the present and future of public safety communications.

SR-253

## Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

## FEBRUARY 13

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the "Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change" examining the economic impacts of climate change and stabilizing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

SD-106

## FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366